India has been lost on its way to India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that earlier shipment of the same nature was also lost; and

(d) whether Government ultimately received the Heavy Water and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, *ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS* AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) India has not imported any heavy water at any time from Norway. Hence the question of its getting lost on its way to India does not arise.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

1227. [*Transferred to the 16th August* 1988].

Appointment of Air Chief Marshal

1228. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new incumbent appointed as Air Chief Marshal is junior to Air Marshal M. M. Singh, if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shri M. M. Singh has resigned or sought premature retirement and if so, what are the reasons advanced by him;

(c) what are the guidelines/criteria for superseding Air Marshals in IAF and whether these have been followed in the appointment of the present Air Chief Marshal; and

(d) what is the number of earlier cases when senior army officers have been superseded and its impact on the army service?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir. Air Marshal S. K. Mehra is junior to Air Marshal M. M. Singh. The appointment of Chief of the Air Staff is based on comparative merit and not on seniority only.

(b) Air Marshal M. M. Singh sought premature retirement with effect from 31st July, 1988, without assigning any reasons.

(c) There are no recorded guidelines or criteria for superseding Air Marshals in the Indian Air Force. The question of following such guidelines criteria, therefore, in the case of the appointment of the present Air Chief Marshal does not arise.

(d) The number of senior Army Officers, at the level of Lt. Generals, who have been superseded for appointment as Army Commanders/ Vice Chief of the Army Staff in the last five years has been eight. Supersession of officers in the higher echelons of the Army is inevitable because of its pyramidical structure, and inherent in the selection process which is based on comparative merit. There is no question, therefore, of any adverse impact being felt on the Army.

Chief executives in public sector

1229. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
DR. YALAMANCHILI SIVAJI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of public sector industrial units which are functioning without Chief Executives to steer their affairs and since when these units are without Chief Executives in each case;